



SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.  
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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

October 4, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 419X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment from Walum to Dazey, North Dakota**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please reference STB decision served on July 2, 2004. Condition #1 requires BNSF to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the line and all sites and structures on the line until completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

By letter dated September 1, 2004, BNSF submitted the final archaeological report to the North Dakota State Historical Society ("SHPO") with a copy to SEA. Enclosed is a copy of SHPO's response to BNSF regarding its review of the archaeological report and their concurrence with "No Historic Properties Affected" determination.

BNSF requests that the Section 106 condition of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, be removed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

*Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.*  
*luz BR*

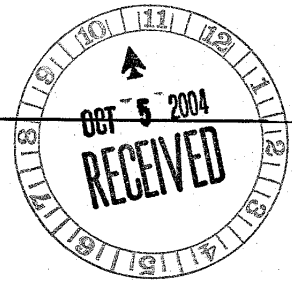
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

Enclosure

cc: Richard Batie  
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. (SHPO)  
Victoria Rutson (STB, SEA)  
Phillis Johnson-Ball (STB, SEA)



**STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF NORTH DAKOTA**



John Hoeven  
Governor of North Dakota

September 14, 2004

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Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
Director

Accredited by the  
American Association  
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Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.  
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co.  
700 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 220  
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ND SHPO REF.: 04-0221, -0222, -0287, and -0288, Final Report, Four  
Proposed BN&SF Railway Co. Abandonments in Grand Forks, Barnes, Griggs,  
Bottineau, and Mercer Counties, ND.

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We have reviewed: *Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment at Four Locations in North Dakota, Class I and Class II Cultural Resources Inventories* by Cynthia Kordecki, UND, Department of Anthropology, Anthropology Research and Mark Hufstetler, Renewable Technologies, Inc., August 2004, and have found the report acceptable. We cannot, however, advise your office as to whether the report satisfies BNSF's obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA. That, as with the legally binding determination of eligibility for cultural resources, is a determination that the lead agency makes.

If consulted by the lead agency, the ND SHPO would recommend and concur that sites 32BA162, 32ME2222, and 32ME2223 are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Also, in a letter dated May 12, 2004, the ND SHPO previously recommended to the Surface Transportation Board that we would concur with "No Historic Properties Affected" determination for each of these four projects provided they are of the nature specified and take place in the legal descriptions outlined in the report and correspondence.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in any further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Duane Klinner at (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
(North Dakota)